The Beehive

Serving the 400,000 LDS Members in Arizona

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From Stateside to WORLDWIDE

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Six New Mission Presidents Called From Arizona

Paul S. Rowley, of the Mesa Arizona Central Stake (pictured with his wife Robin) is the new mission president for Indonesia

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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COVER Story

Six Men from Arizona Called to Serve as Mission Presidents

In January, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced assignments for 168 new mission presidents who will begin serving in July 2016 in missions around the world. Among those 168, six are from Arizona.

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

Photo courtesy Paul Rowley

With his wife Robin, Paul S. Rowley, of the Mesa Arizona Central Stake, will return to where he served as a young missionary and will preside over the Indonesia Jakarta Mission.

Michael Dean Pickerd, 57, of the Biltmore Ward, Phoenix Arizona East Stake, will serve with his wife Marian as president of the Italy Rome Mission. The Pickerds both served in Italy as young missionaries. They later got acquainted, dated and married while attending Brigham Young University, and they are thrilled to be returning to serve in Italy together.

"I am excited to be working with my wife to help build the kingdom," says Brother Pickerd. He adds that while they would have been happy to serve anywhere, they look forward to being back among the Italian people.

"The people are so kind and loving. They're wonderful people," Sister Pickerd says.

When Brother Pickerd served there in 1977-79, there were four missions in the country and no stakes. "Today there are two missions, and four stakes in the Italy Rome Mission alone," he says. "The Church, and especially the leadership, has really grown."

Approximately 200 youth missionaries and 12 senior couples are currently serving in the Italy Rome Mission, which covers what was once the Italy Rome and Rome South missions and includes the islands of Sicily and Malta.

As a high councilor, stake president and bishop and, especially serving as an Area Seventy in Arizona from 2008 to 2013 and then as the local coordinator for the Phoenix Arizona Temple, Brother Pickerd has witnessed the blessings that come with the building of temples and

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recognizes construction of the Italy Rome Temple will increase opportunities to share the gospel.

Sister Pickerd, who has served as ward Relief Society president, stake Young Women president, a counselor in stake and ward Young Women presidencies and has taught seminary and Gospel Doctrine, says, regardless of how the opportunities come, "We absolutely love to see hearts and lives changed."

Brother Pickerd agrees. "We've seen that in our own lives, and we want to share that with others."

Like the Pickerds, Paul S. Rowley, 61, of Harris 2nd Ward, Mesa Arizona Central Stake, will also return to where he served as a young missionary to serve now with his wife Robin as president of the Indonesia Jakarta Mission.

"It's exciting, overwhelming and humbling to get a call like that," Brother Rowley says.

Indonesia is densely populated, poverty rates are high, and the climate is hot and humid, he says. The mission covers a large area, including 1,700 islands. More than 90 percent of Indonesia's 250 million people are Muslim, meaning it has the largest Muslim population in the world. There were no LDS missionaries in Indonesia until 1970, and then the country was closed to all foreign missionaries between 1980 and 2000. Yet, Brother Rowley says, "The Church has come a long way. Indonesia is a wonderful country with great people, and the Church is looked upon favorably there."

Today, there are more than 7,000 Church members in Indonesia, half of the 100 young missionaries currently serving there are from that country, and the Book of Mormon and most Church publications are available in Bahasa Indonesian, the country's official language.

"I'm very happy to be able to serve with my husband," says Sister Rowley, who has been a stake Primary presidency counselor, ward Young Women presidency counselor and ward Primary president and was serving as stake Relief Society secretary and a temple ordinance worker when their mission calls came.

"I understand the Indonesian people are warm, wonderful people and I'm excited to share the gospel with them," she says.

Brother Rowley, currently a YSA stake presidency counselor, has served as a bishop, branch president, high councilor, ward executive secretary and ward Young Men president. He says, although their calls came as a bit of a surprise, they couldn't be more excited.

"It's a real blessing for us, and we're going to give it 100 percent."

Also assigned to serve in a large, mostly non-Christian area, Fred M. Mortensen, 62, of the Tempe Ward, Tempe Arizona Stake, will preside over the India Bangalore Mission, serving with his wife, Shauna.

"In India, 80 percent are of the Hindu religion and only 2 percent of the population are Christian," says Sister Mortensen. She says serving there will be a challenge, as "the Church is in infant and frontier stages in many respects."

One advantage is that the gospel is taught primarily in English, "which is the language they are educated in in India," she says.

Brother Mortensen, who most recently served as a counselor in the stake presidency, was formerly a bishop, high councilor, Elders quorum president, ward Young Men president, counselor in a YSA stake presidency and seminary teacher. As a young missionary he served in the Taiwan Taipei Mission.

Sister Mortensen is ward music chairman and choir accompanist. In the past, she has had callings as stake Relief Society president, stake and

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Photo courtesy Michael Pickerd

Michael Dean Pickerd, of the Phoenix Arizona East Stake, will serve with his wife Marian as president of the Italy Rome Mission.

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Six Arizonan Mission Presidents
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ward Young Women president, stake music chairman and Relief Society instructor.

Like the Rowleys, Clint Smith, 58, of the Glenview Ward, Mesa Arizona Kimball Stake, says he and his wife Katherine were surprised when he was called to serve as mission president and assigned to the Florida Tallahassee Mission.

"We looked forward to serving a mission, but thought that would be five or six years down the road," he says. "But, when the call comes, you answer, and we are really excited about serving."

Their mission encompasses six stakes across an area that includes 250 miles of Gulf coastline, taking in "a corner of Mississippi, the coastal area of Alabama, the panhandle of Florida and into Georgia," Brother Smith says.

Currently, 180 young missionaries and 13 couples are serving there. "We look forward to getting to know those missionaries and loving them to death," he says.

Brother Smith has served as family history consultant, stake president, bishop, high councilor, temple ordinance worker and Scoutmaster. As a young missionary, he served in the Germany Hamburg Mission.

Photo courtesy of Fred Mortensen

Fred M. Mortensen, of the Tempe Arizona Stake, will preside over the India Bangalore Mission, serving with his wife, Shauna.

Photo courtesy Clint Smith

Clint Smith of the Mesa Arizona Kimball Stake will serve with his wife, Katherine, as mission president of the Florida Tallahassee Mission.

Sister Smith is a ward Relief Society teacher and is a former stake Young Women and Primary presidency counselor, and ward Relief Society and Primary presidency counselor.

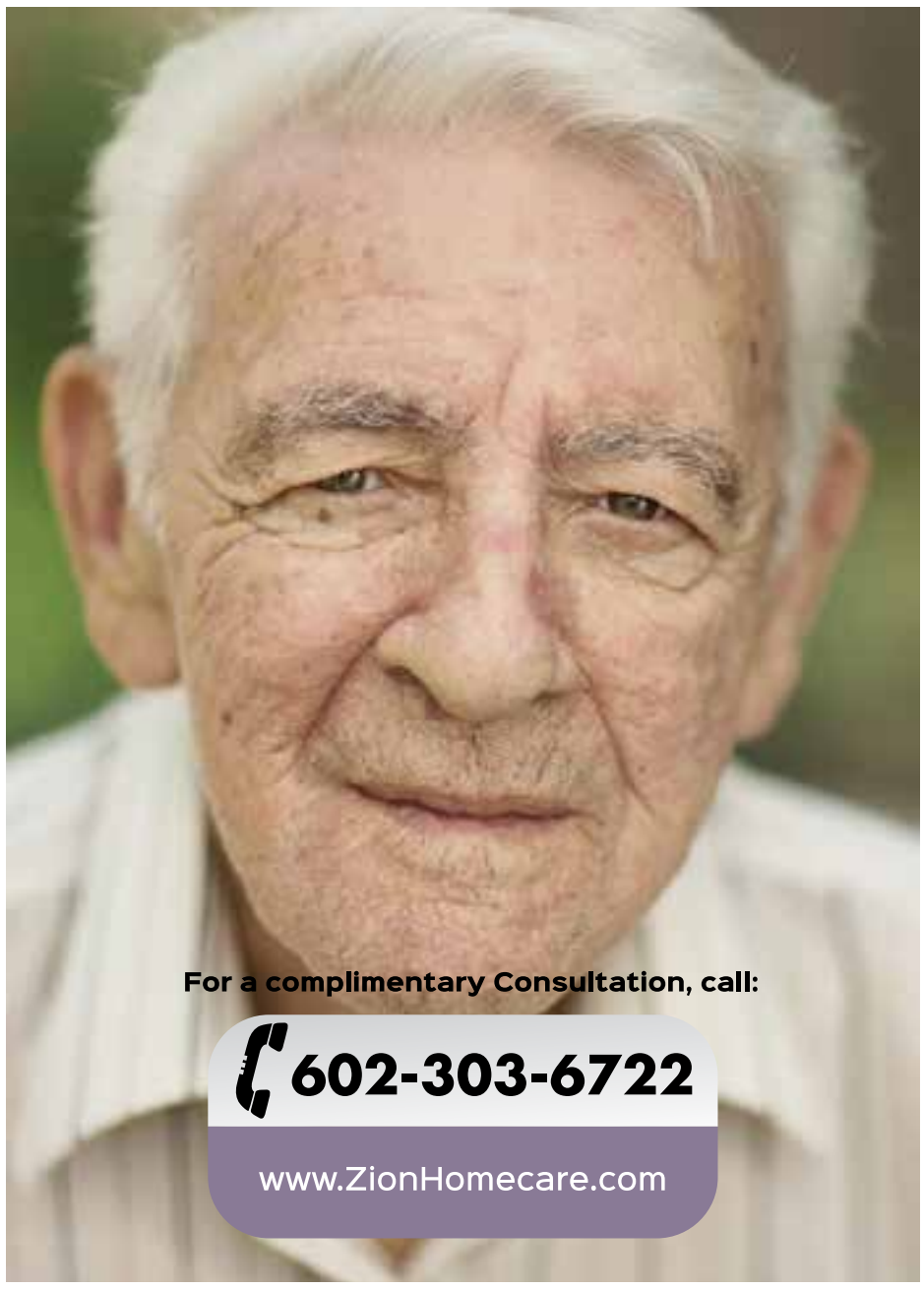
The two others from Arizona called as mission presidents are Paul D. Sorensen, of the Arrowhead Ranch Ward, Glendale Arizona North Stake, who will serve with his wife, Julienne, as president of the Idaho Nampa Mission and Todd Polley, of the Tucson Arizona North Stake, who will serve with his wife, Doralea, as president of the Texas San Antonio Mission.

As these couples look forward to the Mission Presidents' Training in late June and to reporting to their missions in July, they are already immersed in intense study and preparation.

"We have a lot of video training from the Church," Brother Smith says. "We spend anywhere from 12 to 20 hours a week or more in video sessions, chats and other training."

As they look ahead, each expresses a desire to work with the missionaries and to help them succeed.

"It is clear to me that a mission president's role is not just to see more missionary work go forth. We are there to help these missionaries become builders of the kingdom, now and for the future as well," says Brother Smith.



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PAST SPEAKERS

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New BEEHIVE Editor Takes Reins

Merry Gordon is a woman juggling many titles: wife, mother, teacher, writer and now editor, as *The Beehive* takes shape this year under her hand.

"I don't know how to not be busy," she laughs. "I thrive on activity."

Merry fills the shoes of former managing editor Cecily Markland Condie, who began editing the then-fledgling paper—now the largest regional LDS newspaper in the country—some twenty years ago.

"We've gone from being a local newsletter to a regional paper," Merry says. "The Mormon community in Arizona is so rich, and it's still growing. I feel an obligation to reflect the depth and breadth of that heritage."

Merry has lived most of her life in Arizona, earning degrees from the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University. She has taught for over sixteen years in the Valley, most recently taking on introductory theatre arts, honors language arts and dual enrollment English 101/102 through Rio Salado College.

Merry Gordon fills the shoes of outgoing *Beehive* editor Cecily Markland Condie

Photo by Eddie Gordon

In addition to her teaching career, Merry has freelanced for *Education.com*, *Family Chronicle*, *Everton's Genealogical Helper* and *The Imperfect Parent*, among others. She enjoys writing about family history, a longtime passion, and motherhood—a round-the-clock job in itself which compelled her to put her writing aside when her children were younger.

"I appreciate the opportunity to write and edit again," she says of taking on *The Beehive* editorship. "I enjoy collaborating with other creative people, and I love having the chance to cover Church- and family-related content. With the rise of social media, I feel that we're seeing a more dynamic Church emerge, one that is more vibrant and engaged. I want to be part of that."

Merry is married to her high school sweetheart and is the proud mother of three children. A convert of nearly twenty years, she currently serves as 1st counselor in the Young Women's presidency of the Dreaming Summit Ward, Goodyear Stake.

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New Exhibits & New Director

Welcome Guests to the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo
Brother and Sister Aston in front of a new Mesa Visitors Center display. The new displays are more interactive.

Responding to a call to serve a couples' mission at the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center, Norman Ashton, a retired attorney and judge, and his wife, Meredith, a retired music teacher, left Ogden, Utah, just over 13 months ago.

However, at nearly the halfway point in their mission, Elder Ashton received a new call, to serve as the director of the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center.

"It was a sudden and unexpected change," says Elder Ashton, adding that while he had come to "know the ropes" in the year the couple had served at the Visitors' Center, "the ropes are a little different as director."

He says his new calling, and serving now in the newly renovated Visitors' Center, combine to make an exciting and rewarding experience.

Elder Ashton says, "I think my favorite exhibit is still 'God's Plan for His Family,'" one of few that wasn't changed with the renovation. "It's still one of the most popular as it brings out a lot of emotions and sensitivities for people."

Among the most popular of the new exhibits are the Book of Mormon teaching pods and guests at the Visitors' Center also appreciate the missionary display.

"Everyone seems to identify with at least one of the eight stories about missionaries portrayed in that exhibit," says Elder Ashton.

He says the revised temple exhibit at the south end of the center also evokes a great deal of interest. "It's a beautify display with the reflection pool behind it and then the Temple."

"Some people miss the old Book of Mormon table and the Jerusalem diorama," he says, but they seem to quickly take to the new, highly interactive, state-of-the-art exhibits.

"The response has been very favorable," he says.

Of course, "we have all the regular videos, 'Meet the Mormons' and 'Joseph Smith: Prophet of the Restoration,'" and families, Primary or Young Men or Young Women groups can pick and choose which they would like to view.

He adds, "Our sister missionaries are really the best exhibit we have."

The 24 sister missionaries currently serving at the Visitors' Center, "come from all over. Half are Spanish-speaking missionaries, and half are English speaking. They are specifically called to the Visitors' Center and spend half their time there and half in the peopled areas," says Elder Ashton.

For groups visiting the center, the sister missionaries will conduct tours and answer any questions guests have.

"The center and the missionaries here are very accommodating and welcoming to small and large groups," Elder Ashton says.

There is no need to call ahead, unless the group is particularly large.

He adds that the Visitors' Center hosts a variety of events and temporary attractions, such as they did during the weeks prior to Easter when they posted banners and showed the two-minute clip supporting the Church's Easter initiative to "Find Him and Enjoy New Life. Hallelujah."

"We have 28,000 to 30,000 people that come into the Center as a direct result of the Easter Pageant," Elder Ashton says.

Beginning April 1, the Center will host story time for young families, with the sister missionaries acting out various Bible stories every other Friday morning at 10 a.m.

Also beginning April 1, Spring Concerts at the Center will feature one-hour concerts on Fridays at 7 p.m. The concerts will showcase local talent, such as the Maxson Family Singers, Resonance, the Hoopes Family Strings and others.

Details about concerts, story time and other events can be found on the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MesaVC/.

The Visitors' Center, at 525 E. Main Street in Mesa, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mesa Artist Finds way to

Make Money & Mint Music

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Beehive

Linda Fox, member of Chandler's McQueen 2nd ward, is a realist artist who seeks opportunities via social media, artist guilds, art schools, galleries and competitions to showcase her work. In order to carve out a place for herself in the competitive world of art as a realist, Sister Fox, who received a degree in Studio Art from ASU, as well as additional training at Scottsdale Artist's School, says, "I've had to narrow my focus to groups and venues that promote realism."

Photo courtesy of Linda Fox

Artist Linda Fox stands next to the piano she designed for international exhibit in Mesa, Street Pianos.

In early 2014, Sister Fox heard about a call for art from the US Mint Artistic Infusion Program (AIP). "It seemed like a perfect opportunity," she says. "I love the American ideals that are so beautifully expressed in public art commissioned by our government in buildings, parks and monuments. Coins are a form of that same art." She applied and was encouraged by Justin Kunz, an illustrator, BYU art professor and AIP coin designer.

Soon, she received a phone call from the U.S. Mint with the news that they wanted her in the program pending a design test. After her design was submitted, Sister Fox attended a symposium at the Philadelphia Mint with 19 other artists as well as mint staff and sculptors/engravers. She feels honored to have participated with such a great, talented group.

From the history of coins and their design, imagery and symbolism, to the differences between circulated, uncirculated and proof coins, there was a lot for Sister Fox to learn: that eagles on a coin should only fly upward, for example, and right is east and left is west. Sister Fox says she enjoyed the research as much as the actual artwork. She read, practiced, took workshops and constantly thought about what it might take to make a design the mint would consider.

After a long selection process, Sister Fox's obverse design for the Lady Bird Johnson First Spouse Gold Coin was selected. Sister Fox says that it was wonderful "learning about her life, work, interests and accomplishments."

The coin was minted and made available for purchase in August 2015.

Among current projects, she is also participating in a unique international art exhibit in Mesa called Street Pianos. Every year, pianos are donated, painted and put in public places in major cities around the world. Each piano on display has the words on it, "Play Me, I'm Yours."

From March 1 to April 9, the City of Mesa is participating to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Mesa Arts Center. 24 artists were selected to team up with community groups to design pianos. Sister Fox is paired with CARE partnership, an organization that works to offer a safe place for children to learn and play, family medical services and much more. Their piano's theme focuses on hands serving others.

It's clear that Sister Fox loves a challenge. She enjoys transforming a canvas and layers of paint into much more, something that she says "touches the mind and heart, and stirs the soul." She loves to capture the world's beauty in the images of people, places and things. Sister Fox enjoys expressing images that inspire and uplift, getting family members involved by modeling for her, sharing fun facts about whatever she's researching, meeting and working with other artists and being to be an example of good works as well as constantly learning and trying to be led by the Spirit.

For more information about Sister Fox's art, find her on Facebook or visit her website, www.foxartonline.com. For more information about Street Pianos, visit http://streetpianos.com/mesa2016/

Photo courtesy of Linda Fox

Artist Linda Fox and the coin she helped design featuring First Lady Bird Johnson.

Things to Do & See in Arizona

HometowN Tourist

Explore Apache Junction!

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

At the juncture of the Apache Trail and US 60 lies Apache Junction—"AJ" to locals. While most of it spills over into Pinal County, here are four good reasons to trek cross-county and check out this Old West outpost.

Photo courtesy of Arizona Renaissance Festival

The Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival and Artisan Marketplace serves up family fun each February and March just outside of Apache Junction.

It's a great place for time travel

Huzzah! Come rain or come shine, it's always the 16th century in Apache Junction from February through March, where you can feast like Henry VIII, take in a joust and marvel at fire-breathing dragons…all from the comfort of Arizona's own Arizona Renaissance Festival. The festival, which calls neighboring Gold Canyon home, boasts an artisan marketplace, a variety of shows from hard-core historical to pure whimsy, and games for the whole family. If a giant turkey leg and an afternoon of m'ladying isn't your thing, head to Goldfield for a quasi-authentic ghost town experience. Goldfield's mining boom dwindled not long after hitting its peak in the 1890s. It rose from the rubble almost a hundred years later, when ghost town aficionado Robert Schoose rebuilt it. Now you can watch gunfights, tour the mine, ride the narrow gauge railroad and pan for gold.

It's where the West was fun—and where Elvis left the building.

Recognize the majestic Superstitions towering—inaccurately—over Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas in Gunfight at the O.K. Corral? That's because the Superstitions were once slated to become the "Western Movie Capital of the World"! Apacheland Studios was imagined in the mid-1950s as a scenic alternative to already-bustling Phoenix, where horns and air traffic interrupted filmmaking. In the 1960s and 70s, Apacheland hosted icons Audie Murphy,

Continued on pg. 16

Goodyear Stake Hosts Third Annual **Community Car Show**

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

On February 20, the Goodyear Arizona Stake held its third annual community car show, welcoming stake members, curious community members and car enthusiasts from across the Valley.

Last year, 85 vehicles were on display. This year, 185 filled the parking lot of the stake center on Estrella Boulevard in Goodyear—everything from souped-up hotrods to classic cars and trucks in all different makes and models—all against a background of '50's and '60's rock and roll music and free hamburgers and hot dogs.

"We're excited about the way this has grown," says Goodyear Stake president John Hayes.

He explains the event began in 2014 after the zone leaders in the Phoenix Mission issued a challenge to come up with ideas that would encourage non-members to visit a church building.

"In one of our monthly meetings, the zone leaders challenged me to think outside the box, to try to find ways to get people involved," says President Hayes. "One of my counselors mentioned having a community car show and we ran with the idea."

Brent Ruddy of the Sarival Ward, who was the DJ at this year's event, was one of several who was instrumental in helping to spread the word and generate interest in the event from the beginning.

"He would go out to other car shows in the area and invite people to come to our show," says President Hayes.

Another stake member who helped from the beginning was Ron Jarrell of the La Loma Ward, a founding member of the Cold Water Fat Boys Car Club. This year, the stake named the event the Ron Jarrell and Dub Boyles Memorial Car Show to honor Ron and his cousin Dub of Buckeye, who both passed away January 31. The goodwill Ron created among other car enthusiasts was evident both at his funeral and at the car show, where his wife Charlotte and family members showed Ron and Dub's cars and trucks again this year.

Photo by Cecily Markland Condie

Goodyear Stake high councilor and chair of the stake's annual community car show Nick Fuller (left) and stake president John Hayes join with other stake members to welcome guests from the community for a fun event and non-threatening way to learn about the Church.

Nick Fuller of the Dreaming Summit Ward, the high counselor over this year's event, says, "President Hayes told us, 'If you feel you don't know how to do missionary work, just come to the car show.'"

He says the event is designed to be non-threatening and fun, while providing a way for community members to become acquainted with members of the Church and to learn more, should they choose.

Missionaries served the food and were on hand to give tours of the building and to answer any questions. At a small table, Books of Mormon were offered free for the taking.

"We had 57 people take Books of Mormon last year," says President Hayes.

Attendees also could visit the Family History booth, manned by ward family history consultants, where they could quickly do some research into their ancestry.

It was estimated that more than 1,500 people attended this year's show.

"It's just a great way to get people out of their homes to have fun and to bring the community together," Brother Fuller says.

COOKING WITH the BEEHIVE

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

The Story of Pizza

From tailgate parties to birthday parties and deep dish to thin crust, pizza reigns supreme, though its connoisseurs may never have considered the pizza's humble beginnings.

Pizza we best know it began when the poor area around Naples started using tomatoes as a topping. The original flat bread was plain and not very tasty to eat. Tomatoes were first brought to Europe from America in the sixteenth century, and for a long time were considered poisonous. Many are surprised to know that it wasn't until the late eighteenth century that tomatoes became a popular topping for the yeast-based flat bread.

Italian immigrants began arriving in the United States in the early 1900s, bringing with them their flat bread and tomato dish, and thus was pizza introduced to America. Ever since then the dish has graduated from street corner fare to the poshest of bistro menus all over the country.

While pizza is most often considered a dinner or lunch food, pizza for breakfast can be an unexpected and fun treat for families.

Here's an example of a breakfast pizza that works well on a Saturday morning:

Breakfast Pizza:

1 T. butter

3 T. milk

8 eggs

1 11-inch pizza crust

6 slices Provolone cheese

4 slices bacon, cooked crisp, and cut into 1 inch pieces

Heat oven to 450°.

Melt butter in a 10 inch skillet; add egg mixture. Cook, gently lifting and stirring to allow uncooked portions to flow underneath for 2 or 3minutes or until set. Remove from heat and set aside. Place pizza crust onto a large baking sheet and top with 4 slices of cheese, cooked eggs, and bacon. Cut other two pieces into quarters, and place over the pizza. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until cheese is melted. Cut into 6 wedges, serve hot, and most of all, enjoy!

Faith in the Girl Scouts

By Alison Beckert
The Beehive

Girl Scout Law
I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for
what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

The Girl Scout program is thriving in Arizona! Cookies are great, but there's a whole lot of good being done for growing girls—and not just in the areas of arts and crafts or leadership skills. The Girl Scouts of the USA recognizes that faith is a powerful force in the lives of participants, making it easy to see why the program is gaining in popularity with LDS girls.

The Girl Scout foundation is based on diversity and helping girls to explore their potential. In the early days, this meant pushing some social boundaries. Mackenzie Collie, employee of the AZ Cactus Pine Girl Scouts, shares her favorite story from the program's rich history.

"The first Girl Scouts were teens," she says. "Being a Girl Scout then was all about having a safe place to try new things. In a secluded courtyard, these girls found themselves a basketball, hiked up their skirts, and gave the game a try! This was in the 1900s when that would have been completely scandalous."

This spirit of adventure and focus on talents still motivates the Girl Scout program today, which works to foster a spirit of productive curiosity. With the help of parents and leaders, girls are encouraged to discover the wide scope of their unique talents and build confidence in their power to contribute in society.

Photo courtesy of Leandra Huffer, Cactus-Pine Girl Scouts of Arizona
Girl Scouts go nuclear– girls work together on math and science based projects.

As the Girl Scout Promise makes clear, this skill-building isn't without a firm direction. The Girl Scouts operate outside any specific religious affiliation, but they teach girls to identify and commit to worthy principles of faith, patriotism, and social service.

Girl Scout Promise
On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

"Everything girls do in Girl Scouting is designed to help them grow into well-rounded adults equipped to successfully meet the future," declares the Girl Scouts of the USA website. The programs and interest areas focus on high-priority topics needed to be leaders in society today, including financial literacy, science/technology, healthy living, and more.

With this focus, girls can come to better recognize and employ their skills in the world. Religious faith, however, has always been encouraged in the Girl

Continued on pg. 17

ARIZONA COUPLE SERVING AT THE

BYU Jerusalem Center

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

Photo courtesy of Garth Holyoak

Brother and Sister Holyoak seated at the organ where Kathleen will be playing as part of her service assignment.

Most of us will only see the Holy Land through scripture study—but Garth and Kathleen Holyoak of the Arcadia Ward, Scottsdale Camelback Stake, have only to look out their window. The Holyoaks were recently called to fill a service assignment to the BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies for a period of eighteen months.

"We want everyone to understand that this is not a mission calling" says Sister Holyoak. "We are a service couple because the Church has signed a non-proselyting contract that no one at the Jerusalem Center, including students, will share any of our beliefs." Instead, their focus includes building good will on behalf of the Jerusalem Center and the Church with the local Israeli, Palestinian and Christian communities.

The center's building is on Mount Scopus overlooking the Mount of Olives, the Kidron Valley, and the Old City (Jerusalem). Students attend the Jerusalem Center as part of BYU's study abroad program. There are currently eighty-two students attending. Students enroll in Provo and travel to the Holy Land, where they live in the center for about four months and study a core curriculum focusing on Old and New Testament, ancient and modern Near Eastern studies, and language (Hebrew and Arabic).

Sister Holyoak, an accomplished organist, holds a music degree from BYU and will be the resident organist for the center. This prestigious position has been held by tabernacle organists and other gifted musicians including Robert Cundick and Parley Belnap.

Sister Holyoak is the organist for the student branch that meets on Saturday (the Sabbath in Jerusalem), and she also conducts a student choir. Members of the Church visiting the area are welcome to attend, but are asked not to invite non-members to attend Church services. The Church's agreement assures the State of Israel that no efforts will be made by its members to lead individuals in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza to take an interest in the Church. This agreement applies to all Church members, whether they are residents, short-term visitors or tourists.

Sister Holyoak also gives short organ recitals on the center's Maracussen tracker organ Wednesday through Friday as part of the tours conducted through the Jerusalem Center.

As a music couple the Holyoaks are also in charge of the carillon bells, located in the 152 foot tower on top of the YMCA building. Sister Holyoak plays the carillon bells in the Old City each Sunday from 11 a.m. until noon. A carillon is a musical instrument composed of at least twenty-three bells which are played from a keyboard and is mechanically connected to the bells in the tower. The keyboard has broomstick-shaped keys that are played by the carillonneur with loosely formed fists, and pedals that are played with the feet. Along with playing the bells, the couple shows students how to play them. These carillon bells are the only ones in the Middle East.

The Holyoaks are truly enjoying building goodwill through music. "We are still learning our duties," says Sister Holyoak, "and are excited to have this opportunity."

You can check out the Holyoaks' blog at TheHolyoaksintheHolyLand.blogspot.com.

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Beehive Book Nook

By Stacy Johnson

From whodunits to historical fiction and self-help to sci-fi, The Beehive will take you cover to cover through some of the best new releases by LDS and local authors.

Rift Watcher

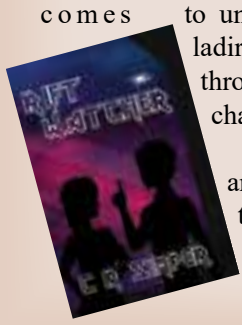
Author Chanda Simper has the created a new world in *Rift Watcher* (The Electric Scroll, 2015) with aliens and creatures from different parts of the galaxy as believable as if they lived next door.

Onnie and her brother Jay are going to live with their father, Captain of Rift Watcher—the move comes at their father's request shortly after Onnie purposefully fails the Interplanetary Alliance Academy entrance exam. She doesn't know what she wants to be, but she knows she doesn't want to attend the academy.

Onnie is intriguing and intuitive for her age—and also a little bit nosey. A fascinating, relatable character, she possesses a child-like spirit of exploration mixed with a desire to be grown up.

On their voyage to the station, they meet Darragh Conally, the new Chief Medical Officer of Rift Watcher. There is something peculiar about the new doctor and from their first introduction, Onnie spends much of her time trying to figure him out.

Their relationship creates a force to be reckoned with when it comes to understanding what is going on with the Galladirans and the Earthers. The tension is palpable throughout the entire story and Darragh becomes a character to root for.



Chanda Simper will delight book lovers young and old with her clean, science fiction fantasy that keeps the reader engaged to the very end.

Rating ★★★★★

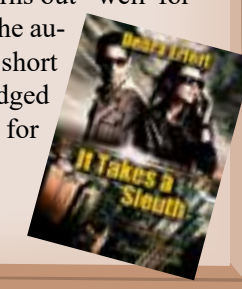
The Royals of Monterra: It Takes a Sleuth

Drama, suspense, action and a little bit of romantic tension all build up to a fantastic conclusion in Debra Erfert's newest short work, *The Royals of Monterra: It Takes a Sleuth* (Kindle Worlds Publishing 2016). This gumshoe tale has both well-developed characters and a riveting story line.

Someone is trying to kill the beautiful and talented field producer Taylor Hodges. She has come to Arizona scouting a new location for her newest season of Marry Me, Hollywood's hottest new reality show. An unexpected phone call very late one night puts her in touch with Maxine, the owner of Larabee Investigations.

Maxine Larabee has all the qualities of a strong female protagonist; she's daring and adventurous with a little bit of "I need to prove myself" and a dash of uncertainty all rolled into one. Maxine knows that winning this newest case for such a high-profile celebrity will be just the ticket to prove that she is more than just a capable investigator.

Even if you aren't a fan of the mystery genre, you can't help but have faith in Maxine and hope everything turns out well for Taylor. At 95 pages, it's a fairly quick read, but the author captures so much action and detail into this short tale that it's hard to believe it isn't a full-fledged novel. *It Takes a Sleuth* is a clean read, suitable for young adults on up.



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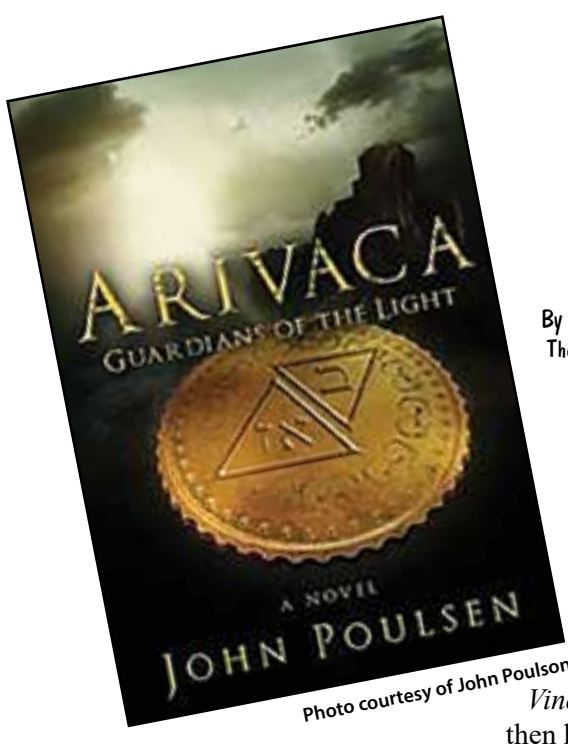

Photo courtesy of John Poulson

ARIVACA: The Guardians of the Light
Inspired by Arizona Boys Ranch

Arivaca: Guardians of the Light **"is like throwing** *The Da Vinci Code* **and** *Holes* **into a blender, then hitting the button," the author says.**

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

A new book, *ARIVACA: The Guardians of the Light*, written by John Poulsen, an LDS businessman from Gilbert, Arizona, is now available.

Poulsen, the father of 9 and grandfather of 12, says, "The book is like throwing *The Da Vinci Code* and *Holes* into a blender, then hitting the button." While the book is written for young adults, it will appeal to adults as well.

Poulsen says he is one of the original partners of real Arivaca Boys Ranch, roughly ten miles north of the Mexican border in Arizona, which inspired his book.

"I saw what took place on the ranch and was intrigued by the experiences and personalities of the boys. They come from all over. Some of the boys are LDS," says Poulsen.

Poulsen says that one day while watching the movie *Holes* he thought it would be interesting to write a book about troubled teen boys on a ranch like the Arivaca Boys Ranch.

Poulsen, an avid fan of studying ancient Israel and its temples, started

Continued on pg. 17

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Mesa Immigration Attorney Gives Back

On March 3rd, 2016, the law office of Yasser F. Sanchez joined La Libre Initiative to create a much needed citizenship fair in Mesa, Arizona. Yasser F. Sanchez worked with Matthew E. Brown, State Director of La Libre Arizona, to create a citizenship workshop to which over eight hundred people attended. More than one hundred citizenship applications were initiated at the event. In order to be able to help such a large group, Sanchez and Brown recruited and trained over fifty unpaid volunteers to assist legal residents in filling out their applications. In addition, Juan Moran, USCIS community liaison, held a two-hour question and answer period on the process of becoming a citizen.

Upon entry to the event, Moran remarked, "We have never had such a large event in Mesa. This is amazing."

Brother Sanchez is a graduate of Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School. His practice is based solely on immigration and naturalization law.

Regarding his choice to partner up with La Libre, Sanchez states, "I wanted to work with a group that truly helped the Latino community. I saw the difference that La Libre was making in our community, teaching limited government, self-help, conservative principles and felt that I needed be a part of it."

Sanchez believes that events like this one lead to people "learning how to fish," as he puts it. "I believe that the Gospel teaches us to help our fellow man. It is even better when those who have been blessed teach members of our community how they can help themselves."

For more information about volunteering with La Libre, contact Matthew Brown at (480) 800-7618. The law offices of Yasser F. Sanchez are in Mesa, Arizona, and can be reached at (480) 275-2407.

Photo courtesy of Yasser Sanchez

Attorney Yasser Sanchez speaking about the immigration process to over 800 people in Mesa at the citizenship workshop.

Photo courtesy of Yasser Sanchez

Attorney Yasser Sanchez (left), Volunteer Virginia Gonzalez, Gisel Medina Montero and Matthew E. Brown, Director of La Libre in Arizona, worked together to organize this event in Mesa.

Explore Apache Junction
Continued from pg. 10

Lorne Greene—and even Elvis. The chapel constructed for his 1969 film Charro! survived two fires to be reconstructed on the grounds of the Superstition Mountain Museum, where it can be seen today along with the barn from The Rifleman TV series.

It's the (alleged) site of fortunes untold

The stories go back more than a hundred years, and with varying degrees of embellishment have one theme: a German immigrant and prospector, Jacob Waltz, claimed to have discovered a rich ore vein in the 1870s in the Superstitions. Whatever he knew about the mine died with him and the story all faded from memory until the 1930s, when a fortune hunter searching for the riches turned up with two bullets in his head. Other mysterious disappearances followed and the elusive mine developed a reputation for being cursed. If you want to try your hand at finding it, the Internet is full of (mis)information, tantalizing clues and fantastic stories. If you just enjoy a good hike, take in the real treasure of the Superstitions—its gorgeous natural beauty—by visiting Lost Dutchman State Park.

It's a spot to shake, paddle and roll

If downhome cooking and good old fashioned rock and roll (or show tunes, or country, depending on the night) get you going, Apache Junctions' Arizona Opry is the place to be! Twins Brenda and Barbara Barleen, along with an assortment of other top-notch entertainers, offer a variety show that's not to be missed—top it off with slow-cooked roast beef and some chocolate cake and you've got a night to remember. Doesn't float your boat? The Dolly Steamboat will. With the choice of three different sightseeing cruises on Canyon Lake, you can see bald eagles and mountain goats, or just take in a lovely Arizona sky full of stars.

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Arivaca Boys Ranch Book
Continued from pg. 15

writing the book, but added a storyline involving some of the lost treasures of Solomon's Temple.

"Today's youth seem to have zombies and vampires with fictitious powers as heroes. I wanted the hero of the book to be strong and have powers from God, like Sampson as a prototype," says Poulsen, a member of the Gilbert Stake High Council.

According to the book blurb listed on Amazon, "Jesse Ballard's life is filled with misfortune. His parents are dead, he's been convicted of a crime and a dark secret torments his soul. But when he's incarcerated on a ranch for troubled teens, he discovers his troubles have just begun. A Supreme Power has literally hijacked his life, bringing him to the ranch to make him the guardian of a powerful relic that was hidden away 2600 years ago when Solomon's Temple was destroyed.

Given superhuman powers, Jesse is suddenly thrust into a strange and perilous world of supernal treasures, killers and demons—battling the dark forces who desperately seek the sacred artifact. Thinking he's on a one-man mission, Jesse is shocked to learn that Cedar Lane, a girl who seriously despises him, has spiritual gifts essential for keeping the relic safe. Without her help, he's in jeopardy of losing not just the relic, but his life.

As Jesse unravels this secretive and dangerous world he learns the ups and downs of young love, and both the reward and peril of following his divine call."

Poulsen says, "I was one of the original Partners of Arivaca Boys Ranch. In 2007 there was an idea being tossed around amongst a bunch of LDS businessmen in the valley to start a ranch for troubled teenage boys."

"Ron Searle, a CES instructor and administrator, was the brainchild of this idea. An avid horse lover, Mr. Searle wanted to combine some of the ideas and skills of horse whispering with helping troubled teens identify the real sources of their conflict," says Poulsen.

Poulsen added, "In other words: just as it's usually the rider, not the horse, that has the real issues to overcome, the teenager in the program learns that it's really him, not his parents or teachers, that needs to change."

Mr. Searle soon joined forces with the business men and realized his dream. Today, the Arivaca Boys Ranch is an active therapeutic boarding school in southern Arizona, known for changing the lives of many young men.

Arivaca: The Guardians of the Light is available in both eBook and paperback on Amazon.

Faith in Girl Scouts
Continued from pg. 11

Scouts. One particular award, added in the last few years, provides girls a way to earn recognition for their commitment to their religious beliefs.

"This pin can be earned once every year," Sister Collie says in describing this award. "To earn it, a girl has to take a portion of the Girl Scout Law and do a project that compares it to the teachings of their faith." This project can take many forms, including art, written papers, musical compositions, even performances. Many girls use this pin as a chance to combine what they learn in Primary and their Young Women's programs with their goals in the Girl Scouts.

Far from replacing church-based enrichment programs, the Girl Scout program seeks to make membership flexible enough for many levels of involvement. Troupe membership allows for diverse friendships and group activities. Girls without other members near can pursue an individual membership, working with parents or other mentors in the program. Whether formally enlisted or no, the program is full of enriching material for helping girls of all ages progress in their mental, physical, and spiritual growth. The message is encouraging and powerful: girls are powerful, capable, and a force for good in the world, and Girl Scouts aims to show them what they can do.

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Devon Gunnell
Estates Grove Ward
Virginia, Richmond

Donna Hays
Lyons Gate Ward
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Grove 3rd Ward
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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Mission papers sent off? Great! Now what? There are plenty of things you can do to prepare spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially while waiting for that all-important call packet. Check in with us for tips, tricks, and useful resources for preparing missionaries and their families.

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

Preach My Gospel: Before the Field

Mission preparation is more than nailing the look and getting to the MTC on time. Many missionaries find out during their first few days in training that they probably should have done a bit more mental and spiritual preparation before worrying about their sturdy shoes and whether that favorite T-shirt met mission standards.

Thankfully, *Preach My Gospel*, the primary resource for active missionaries, is available to all members. The book, a replacement for the old rote lesson manuals, is intended for teaching potential investigators. This resource actually serves as the official, fully doctrine-based manual for missionary service as a whole.

As stated in the Introduction chapter, titled "How Can I Best Use *Preach My Gospel*?", "All of the chapters in *Preach My Gospel* will help prepare you to fulfill your purpose as a missionary…. Study the chapters throughout your mission. Apply what you learn. Evaluate your work. Missionaries who strive to prepare themselves daily and seek to improve regularly will receive direction from the Holy Ghost and see blessings in their lives." *Preach My Gospel* contains the scriptural doctrine behind essential skills, along with study guides and application activities to address fundamentals of missionary work.

While all of these chapters deserve prayerful study and open discussion, missionaries who have served or who are currently serving have special insight into which chapters they wish they'd looked at more closely before reporting.

A sister missionary from Hawaii, Marcia Makaya, says she wished she'd taken time to study "Chapter 13: How Do I Work with Stake and Ward Leaders".

"When I attended my first Ward Council meeting as a missionary, I really wished I'd known what went on there and what my role was," Sister Makaya, who is currently serving in the Arizona Mesa Mission, says. This chapter also shares important information on stewardship responsibilities, and directs missionaries on priesthood duties relating to investigators, new members and less active members.

Also serving in Mesa is Sister Kaela Lloyd of Bancroft, Idaho, who believes "Chapter 6: How Do I Develop Christ-like Attributes?" is essential for missionary preparation.

"We report for the mission to be representatives of Jesus Christ," she says, "but this doesn't happen without real practice. If more missionaries prepared by studying these attributes, the only culture shock would be missing their moms, not suddenly changing their behavior."

Andrew Nicoll, who returned from serving in the Texas San Antonio Mission in 2012, reflects back on how helpful it would have been to study principles of spiritual direction in "Chapter 4: How Do I Recognize and Understand the Spirit?"

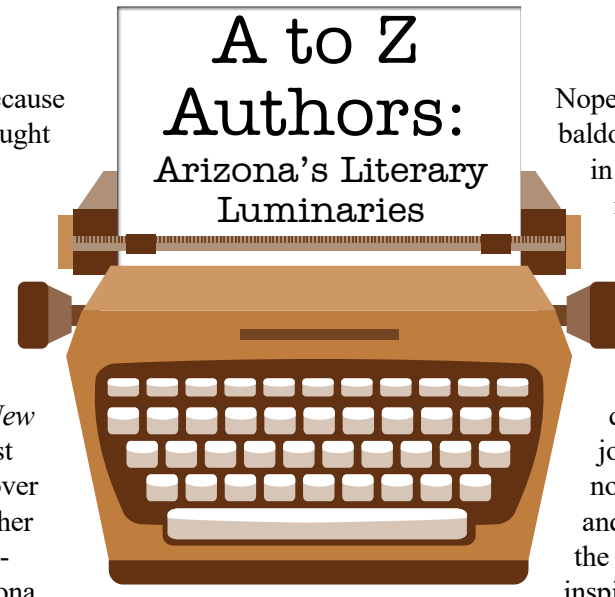
He says, "Getting an early start on learning about what personal revelation is would have been a huge help." Scriptures in each of these chapters give specific doctrine applicable to the topic and effective use of the spiritual skill.

Charles Beckert, psychologist and marriage counselor (now retired), worked with struggling missionaries during his years with LDS Family Services.

"You need to use right tools for the right job," he says. "Serving a mission requires a surprising set of skills, some of which don't come to mind until [missionaries have] been in the field a few months. The tools, however, have always been there. They just need to know they have them and when to apply them."

Preach My Gospel was produced to equip missionaries with the tools and the knowledge for effective missionary work. It's never too early to integrate these true doctrines for missionary preparation.

A to Z Authors:
Arizona's Literary Luminaries



By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

From the cheeky wisdom of a six-year-old to the sweeping vistas of a spaghetti Western sunset, these Arizona authors—both native and adopted—have a little something for every reader.

Wowie, wow wow!—it's Barbara Park!

You may not recognize the name of children's writer Barbara Park—but chances are good that if you have kids, you know her irrepressibly ungrammatical "bestest" heroine, Junie B. Jones. The New Jersey-born author moved to Arizona in the 1970s, penning her famous series about the sassy girl who gave us quips like, "punishment takes the friendly right out of you" and "a little glitter can turn your whole day around." Park also wrote books for older children—most notably, *Skinnybones*, which won several awards.

Southwest Sleuth: J.A. Jance

It's no mystery as to where mystery writer J.A. Jance's strong-willed female protagonists get their grit: Jance herself was initially discouraged from being an author, she says on her website, because a professor thought girls "ought to be teachers or nurses," not writers. Luckily, she persevered—and now Jance, a *New York Times* Best Seller, boasts over sixty books to her name. The University of Arizona grad's Joanna Brady books are set in southeastern Arizona of her childhood, and her heroine Ali Reynolds calls the red rocks of Sedona home.

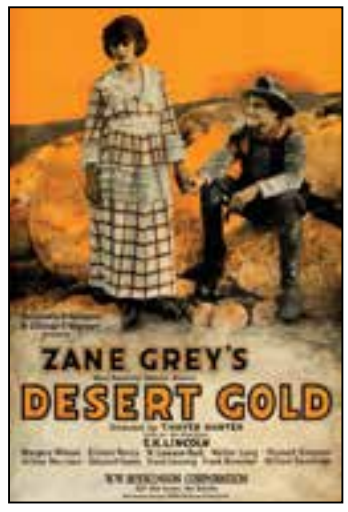


Photo courtesy of Film Daily

Zane Grey's popular Westerns have been adapted for the silver screen nearly since the moment his books hit the shelves, like 1919's Desert Gold, set in Arizona.

Diana Gabaldon? Aye, Sassenach!

You might expect that an author of the best-selling cross-genre (just your typical romance/sci-fi/fantasy/historical fiction set in the Scottish highlands) *Outlander* series might come from somewhere suitably romantic or exotic: the Hebrides, or maybe the West Indies, perhaps. Nope—Diana Gabaldon was raised in Flagstaff and now lives in Scottsdale. The one-time environmental studies professor quit her day job to focus on novels full time, and the result was the Doctor Who-inspired time-travel romance between WWII nurse Claire Randall and her 18th century lover, Jamie Fraser. The series has recently been adapted by Starz to high acclaim.

Zane Grey's Purple Sage and Purple Prose

21st century Phoenix barely recalls the dusty trails of the Old West, but Zane Grey was born in the midst of Arizona's wild heyday—which he read about in dime stories from the comfort of his Ohio home. Grey's wanderlust finally led him west to Arizona, where he had a cabin in Rim Country during the 20s. Late in his life, grumbling about the "tin-can, auto hunters with shot guns," he lamented that the state was overrun with speculators and tourists and he vowed never to return. He didn't—but his "beloved Arizona" lives on in such venerated Westerns as *Riders of the Purple Sage* and *The Call of the Canyon*.

Photo by David Wood

Barbara Kingsolver spent years in Tucson, the setting for some of her most popular books.

Barbara Kingsolver, Appalachia to Arizona

Barbara Kingsolver was born in rural Kentucky and raised briefly in the Congo, lending her experience for her most famous novel, *The Poisonwood Bible.* She spent twenty years in Tucson, a locale for *The Bean Trees*, *Pigs in Heaven* and a compilation of essays, *High Tide in Tucson*. Even though she's moved back to Kentucky, Kingsolver talks about Arizona with the bluster of a native: "We have our own kind of Jack London thing, in reverse: Remember that year (swagger, thumbs in the belt) when it was 122 degrees and planes couldn't land at the airport?"

Whether you like mysteries, histories or anything in between, Arizona has always been a page turner.

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If Family Home Evening is a Challenge, Try One of These Ideas

FHE Corner

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

Family Home Evening: the very thought often brings a flood of mixed emotions to parents. Faithful families want to be obedient and hold a meaningful lesson, but all too often—especially with small children—things get quickly out of control. Here are a couple of suggestions that might help make Family Home Evening a joy instead of struggle.

Family Home Evening in a Jar

This method takes some preparation, but will save families time in the long run. Pick a topic, choose a scripture, song, and story and write them on a slip of paper. Make dozens of these slips and put them into a designated FHE jar. Other things that might be added to your jar could be family outings, service, or activities, like fixing up the garden or making some treats. Google "Family Home evening in a jar" and you'll find multiple blogs and websites teeming with ideas. Some of these blogs and websites have free downloads with the lessons already planned out that you can print off, ready to be cut and stashed away for a future FHE. Mormonshare.com has some particularly good resources.

5 Minute FHE

Short on time or patience? Take heart, parents of toddlers—you're not alone. Register at http://fhein5.webs.com/ and get some tips for helping those "little sponges" to soak up the gospel! The five-minute modules found here can be lengthened if they continue to hold your toddler's attention. Pro tip: make each lesson part of a series. Between four and eight short lessons provide consistency and an opportunity to expound on gospel themes more extensively. Children learn through repetition, so don't be afraid to repeat FHE topics as needed.

Nursery Manual to the Rescue

Focus and attention span are often the culprits of disruptive Family Home Evenings. Toddlers, for example, have a very short attention span. They learn mostly by using their senses. Asking a toddler to sit still for the entire lesson is fighting a losing battle. They naturally want to be active. Visual aids, music and activities guided for their age level help keep them interested. The Nursery Manual is an excellent source for lessons geared to toddlers. Each lesson is already planned from opening to closing prayer. The topics can be adapted for the entire family.

The Family Home Evening Resource Book is available online at LDS.org. A section called Learning Fun for Infants and Toddlers provides ideas to help very young members of the family have fun learning where it is done best—in an informal, everyday setting like their homes.

With a little foresight, Family Home Evening can be rewarding for family members of all ages.

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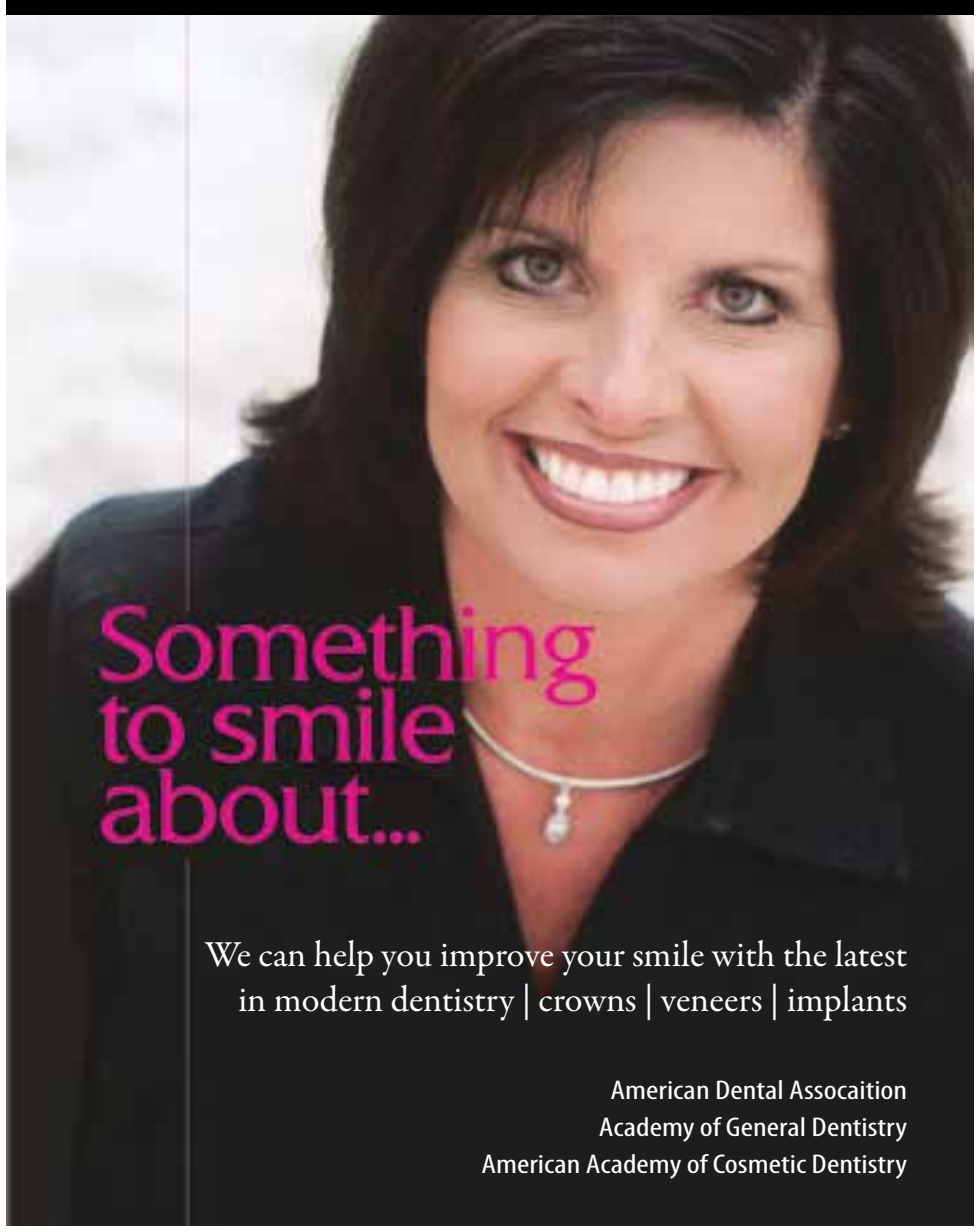
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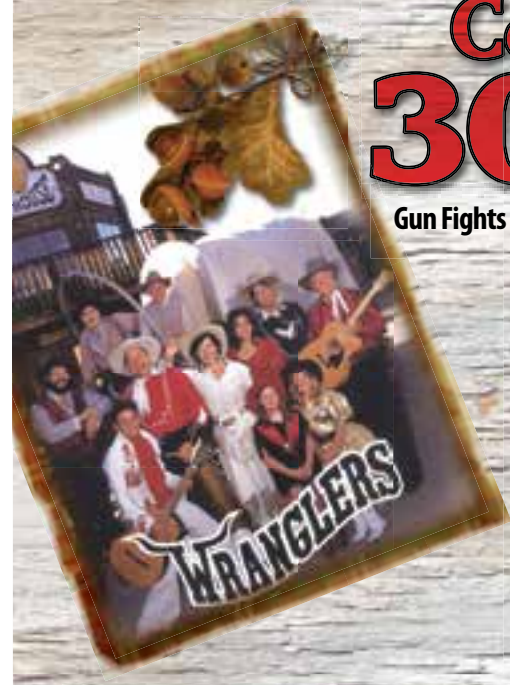

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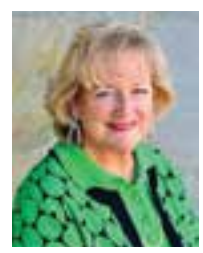

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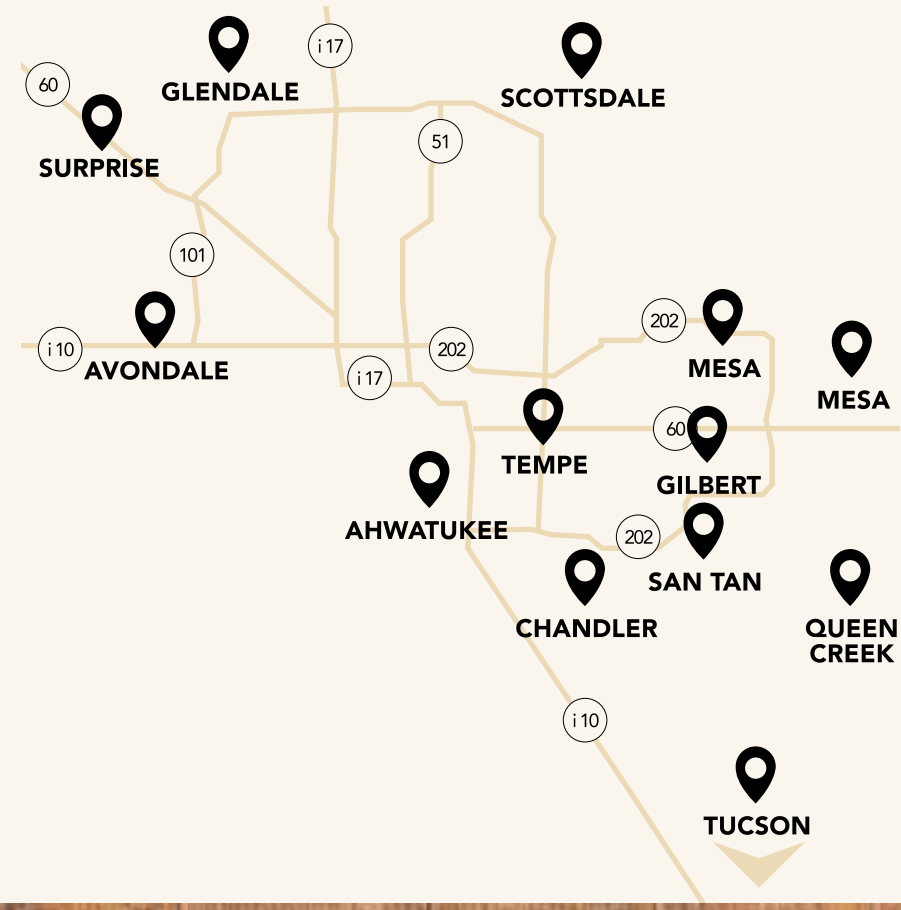

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LDS Elected Officials Discuss Voting and Other Ways of Being a Good Citizen

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

We believe in obeying the law and being subject to government leaders. What a gift it is to have a say in which laws we must uphold and who governs us in this remarkable country.

Several LDS elected officials in Arizona, representing both major parties, consider different aspects of voting and serving according to our own conscience and interests.

Mesa Mayor John Giles (R) says, "The LDS community has a pretty good record of high voter turnout, but I think we need to remind ourselves that it's important to do our homework and be informed voters."

"Our democracy relies on the wisdom and resolve of its citizens to hold our leaders accountable and set the course for the future," says U.S. Senator Jeff Flake (R). "I encourage all eligible voters to exercise that privilege."

Gilbert Town Council member Jenn Daniels (R) adds that it's important to vote for more than just a presidential candidate. Voters can support or oppose local candidates and initiatives. "This is the government closest to the people, and in most cases, where your vote has the most influence."

"Some people get annoyed and stomp their feet, but they don't do much to help the election process," says Arizona Republican Party Chairman Robert Graham. "The fastest, easiest venue for somebody to get engaged is by helping a specific candidate."

Volunteers can assist in ways such as making phone calls, offering financial donations, or by simply displaying yard signs.

Gilbert Mayor John Lewis (R) says, "Even if not yet 18, youth can be involved with campaigns. I encourage them to do so." The mayor himself enjoyed being part of a campaign at age 17.

Many good citizens want to make a significant difference in their communities, but can't muster up any interest in politics beyond voting. Former Arizona State Senator Dr. Edward Ableser (D) has a suggestion: "People can volunteer with various service organizations."

You can be involved with the legislative process from your own home! The Right To Speak system found at www.azleg.gov allows citizens to give state legislators personal opinions about specific bills online.

However you serve, include voting. Mayor Lewis adds that "The habit of voting blesses the whole community." Make it a family tradition.

"As party lines become more polarized, our general public has become more complacent about having their voice heard," says Tempe School Board member Bishop Evan Rogers (D). "We need to exercise our freedom of speech now more than ever."

U.S. Congressman Matt Salmon (R) says of those with views different than his, "As long as I know a person is acting on what they believe is the best for our country, I have nothing but respect for that person."

Let's recall these words of Thomas Jefferson, "God who gave us life gave us liberty," and those of Samuel Adams: "If the public are bound to yield obedience to laws to which they cannot give their approbation, they are slaves to those who make such laws and enforce them."

Photo by Robin Finlinson

April 18th is the last day to register for Arizona's May Special Election.

Arizona upcoming elections:

May 17 - Special Election
August 30 - Primary Election
November 8 - General Election

For election information, see www.arizona.vote.

To volunteer with a political party, visit www.azdem.org, www.arizonagop.org, www.azlp.org or www.azgp.org

The feeling of being *at home…in China*

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

I recently returned from teaching English as part of a two-week American Experience Winter Camp through Impact Exchanges that was held at the Newshape International Education training center in Taiyuan, China, during their winter break. We taught about 35 Chinese students aged 8-15 as part of a five-teacher team. The other four teachers were also LDS and were from Utah.

The trip was an eye-opener for me. I thought I was going there to teach them and that the Chinese people might be cold or guarded. I doubted we could make an impact in two weeks. I was wrong on all counts. They taught me—the people were friendly and gracious and the influence was profound for both students and teachers.

My first surprise was the temperature. The northern Chinese winter is freezing cold. One morning, we actually said, "Oh, it's 27°F. It's warming up."

Another epiphany: as I ate the local cuisine, I soon noticed that most Chinese people never eat junk food. Everything is prepared fresh, at home and in restaurants. They don't use processed food or eat many sweets. They also regularly walk great distances. I did far more walking there than I ever do at home, ate their healthy and delicious meals, and came home 15 pounds lighter.

I quickly fell in love with the students, their families and the Chinese staff. Each teacher prepared lessons on two subjects with follow up activities for later that day when we divided into classes. I taught poetry and leadership skills based on The Seven Habits of Happy Kids to the kids who were the most proficient in English. I had several 14- to 15-year-olds and a couple of very bright 10-year-olds, all delightful and eager to learn.

The day I taught poetry, one of my students wrote:

Can you feel it?
The feeling of being at home
Welcome to China

We were blessed to be invited into the some of their homes to share a meal and make Chinese dumplings. Making dumplings together is an important tradition, especially during the Chinese New Year. On our last night there we went to the home of the school principal where we celebrated New Year's Eve in style, right down to receiving a red envelope with money in it. It was hard to say good-bye.

Although lives and hearts were touched, this was not a missionary experience. It was illegal for us to even talk about religion in China. Facebook, Twitter and Google are also illegal there. They use a social media called WeChat, which we all signed up for so we could be in touch with our students and their parents. Even now, weeks later, I still hear from students and some of the Chinese teachers via WeChat or email.

I hope to return to China. As volunteers, we paid to go, but the cost is reasonable in exchange for airfare, hotel, meals, transportation, and admission to sightseeing venues. Impact Exchanges is looking for college-grad volunteers this summer. Check their website for details: http://www.impactexchanges.com/

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Abney

The two-week American Experience Winter Camp was held in Taiyuan, China, where young Chinese students learned leadership skills and poetry from Sister Stephanie Abney.

By
Merry Gordon
The Beehive

5 FOR $25

Five great activities for under $25 per person!

We all know that carving out time for family bonding is essential. Luckily, having fun doesn't have to break the bank! So put down the remote and step away from the cell phone... if "play hard" and "save big" are both on your to-do list, these boredom busters are a guaranteed good time for everyone.

#1
Hike the Hole

Welcome to the urban outdoors! Phoenix's Hole-in-the-Rock is actually part of Papago Park, which includes the Phoenix Zoo and Desert Botanical Gardens. Only minutes from downtown, this short trail is an easy hike for everyone in your family and delivers sweeping vistas of the Valley. The iconic red sandstone butte has been a popular picnic destination since Phoenix's early years, and it's a quick, fun hike perfect for novice trailblazers and kids alike.

625 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix
Free

#2
Eat cookies!

"Live Simply, Love Deeply, Eat Cookies!"—this is the motto of Glendale's own Coyote Oaties, a delightfully hedonistic oatmeal cookie shop offering treats in the $2 range. If that seems steep for the price of a single cookie, consider that these gourmet beauties are free of preservatives, white sugar and flour, and trans fat—and the cookies, which come in flavors like dark chocolate cashew and white chocolate macadamia, are about the size of your fist! Walk it off in the quaintness of Glendale's 100-year-old historic district and you'll be satisfied indeed.

7005 N 58th Ave, Glendale
About $2.25/cookie

#3
Take the trolley

Forget San Francisco—Scottsdale offers a free trolley tour every 2nd Saturday from its historic Old Adobe Mission. The 45-minute loop introduces visitors to Scottsdale hot spots ranging from the retro vibe of the Hotel Valley Ho to the ritzy Fifth Avenue Shops. Now-fashionable Scottsdale still calls itself "The West's Most Western Town," and BMWs yield the right of way to horses here. Where else could you find such an improbably perfect ambiance? Reservations are mandatory: book your tour at 480-634-6850 today.

3817 N Brown Ave, Scottsdale
Free

#4
Ride the rails

The McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is open 363 days a year to provide its visitors with train-filled fun. 2 six-ticket books at $10 a pop can get a family of five on the vintage carousel, the steam train and in the historic park, which includes an old Arizona mining town engine and a 20s Pullman car used by Presidents Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower. If that's a little heavy on the history for your kids, let them play on the park's two playgrounds or marvel at the world in miniature in the free model railroad museum.

7301 E Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale
Park is free; for rides & some museums, $10 per book of six tickets

#5
Savor citrus

Orange blossoms are the signature scent of a Valley spring—and nowhere are you better poised to take in the delights of the season that at Mesa's Orange Patch. Samples are always available! Think of it like a big farmer's market with candy, nuts and the freshest citrus around: grapefruits, lemons, tangerines and of course oranges with that old-fashioned farm stand appeal. While many of the original Valley groves are now freeways, The Orange Patch recalls the glory days when citrus (along with copper, climate, cattle and cotton) was one of the staple 5 C's of the Arizona economy.

2600 E Lehi Rd, Mesa
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Coyote Oaties bakes their cookies with "really good stuff," according to their website--cage-free eggs, sweet creamery butter and whole rolled oats, to name a few! Photo courtesy of Coyote Oaties.

LOCAL Family FUN!

Phoenix's Hole in the Rock is an easy, fun hike for kids just minutes away from downtown. Photo courtesy of The Beehive staff.

TIME TO Blossom YW CONFERENCE

Young Women Blossom

Thanks to Annual Summer Conference for Girls

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

From a simple service project has grown Time to Blossom, a community of sisterhood and support for young women throughout Arizona and across the United States. Time to Blossom was founded in 2008 by Carla Jorgensen and Debbie Forrest Dayton, who recognized that young women face incredible challenges and need to feel hope and courage in their complicated teen years.

Through summer conferences for girls ages 11-16, supported by ongoing blog posts that continue to teach and offer support, Time to Blossom "empowers young women with inner strength, courage, and confidence to reach their potential and find lasting happiness," the website states.

During the week-long conferences, young women interact with one another and participate in hands-on activities to help them further discover "who they are, who they can become, what their goals can be, and how they can accomplish those goals."

The Time to Blossom conferences focus on inner beauty, outer beauty, and leadership, as well as on how to apply the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"After a week of being immersed in testimony-strengthening and uplifting classes and activities, young women will be improved, enlightened, and filled with excitement for what their future holds," the website notes.

In order to keep participants engaged and to share the Time to Blossom messages with many other young women, MyTimetoBlossom.com was created. On this site, the conference talks are shared. In addition, young adult women write positive and uplifting blogs regarding teenage and young adult life.

Several of these bloggers will speak at this year's conference.

Photo courtesy Time to Blossom

At this summer's Time to Blossom conference, girls aged 11 to 16, will participate in workshops, service projects and activities designed to help them focus on inner and outer beauty, leadership, and on how to apply the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One is Ashley Tucker, a Beehive leader in the 30th Ward, Mesa Central Stake, ASU graduate in political science and full-time mom.

"These conferences give girls a weeklong self-confidence boost," she says. "Girls walk away feeling they are enough. They also learn skills and hear from speakers who inspire them to try new things, believe, be the change they want to see, and have a ton of fun."

Tiffany Cook, of Power Ranch First Ward, San Tan Stake, has been married for seven years. She and her husband have two boys. Tiffany says, "My favorite thing is I get to tell the girls a few things I wish I had known when I was a teen."

She adds, "I think Time to Blossom provides a missing link—that extra boost of confidence that can't come from your parents because they seem out of reach and can't

Continued on pg. 34

THE MESA FAMILYSEARCH LIBRARY CONTINUES TO INVITE ALL TO

"Come and find your ancestors!"

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

Despite being closed over a year ago for renovations, the Mesa FamilySearch Library's mission to teach and serve in the great saving work of family history rolls on.

With no current plans in place to reopen the existing family history building, which has been plagued with mold and structural issues, the library has moved locations to the Training Center at 464 E. 1st Ave., just west of the temple in Mesa. The center is currently open three days a week.

While their staff has been pared down, missionaries are available to assist with research just as they did at the old center. Patrons can still order microfilms, though only short-term loan use is allowed. The books contained in the old library have been shipped to Las Vegas to be digitized and will be available for viewing in the future. A photo scanner is offered on-site with all pictures saved for users to take home on a flash drive.

In January, the library began training classes on Tuesday evenings for family history consultants and priesthood leaders. The classes are a series of four lessons designed to help prepare priesthood leaders and family history consultants fulfill their callings. Similarly, Spanish leader and consultant training is held Thursday evenings. There is even a separate "Youth Family History Consultant Class" available. Call the center to get detailed class schedule information for all training opportunities.

The center offers a variety of presentations and teaching opportunities for youth groups and families on family history and indexing topics, including a genealogy merit badge class.

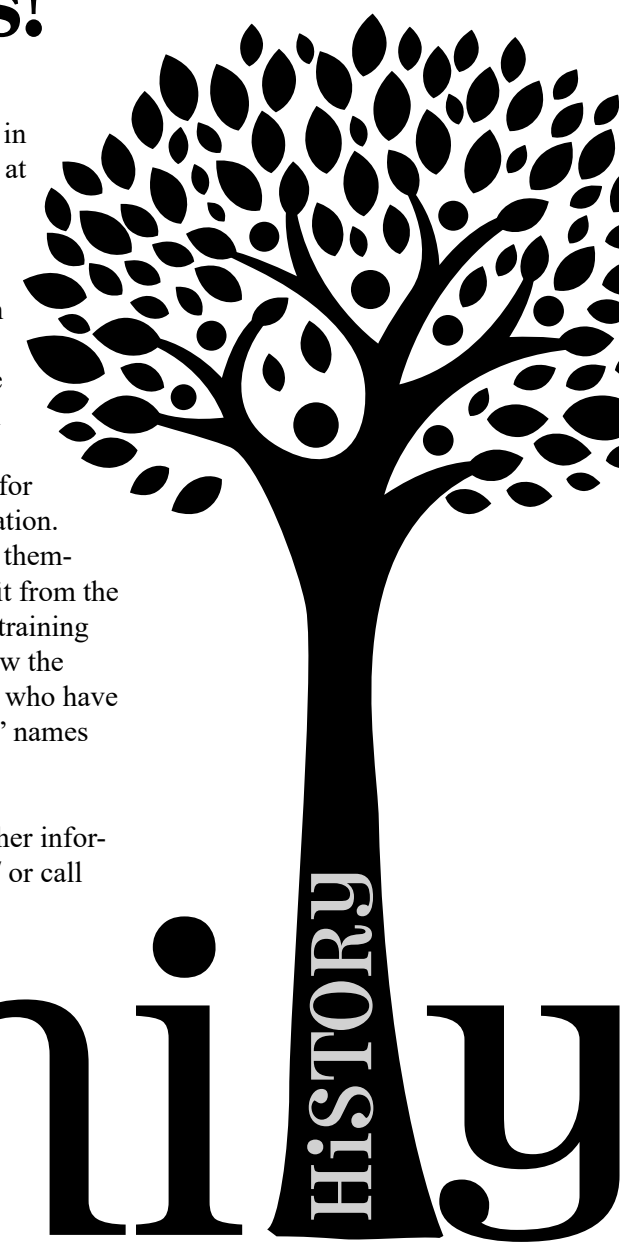
Also located at the Training Center is the "Life Story Room," a place to record portions of one's personal or family history. Patrons will receive their story in digital form on a flash drive for only the cost of the drive ($6.00 exact cash only). It's a fun way to capture and share memories and would make a great family activity. Reservations are required. Call 480-964-1200 for information.

The FamilySearch Library held its annual conference last October at the Temple Institute building, then added two new venues on opposite ends of the valley: one in February at the Red Mountain Institute in Mesa, and the other in March at a Peoria stake center.

These events are always free to the public and offer a wide range of classes for both novice and advanced genealogists. Handouts from some of these conferences may still be available on the library's website. Watch the site, also, for upcoming conference information.

Even those who don't call themselves genealogists can benefit from the conferences and the library's training center as we all strive to follow the counsel of our church leaders who have asked us to find our ancestors' names and take them to the temple.

Visit their website for further information at http://mesarfhc.org/ or call 480-964-1200.



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Pathway Program Helps Students Overcome Common Obstacles to Higher Education

By Diane Gordon
The Beehive

Photo by Diane Gordon
Pathway students peer editing at weekly gathering: (L to R) Brennen Hall, Tatum Hill, Brittany Gertsch, Shandiin White.

Think a college education is out of reach? Think again! High tuition costs, work and family demands, poor study skills and fear are just a few of the common obstacles to higher education that can be overcome through the Pathway program.

Pathway is a one-year program available to Church members worldwide who have a desire to improve their education. In partnership with BYU Idaho, Pathway's low-cost plan combines online courses with local gatherings to provide the skills, support and confidence students need as they begin pursuing a degree.

"Expanding the blessing of education globally has been a goal of Church leaders for decades," says Andy Cargal, Pathway Communications Manager. Brother Cargal explains that focus group studies examined common barriers to higher education and Pathway was created to help members overcome those barriers.

The program is generally divided into two age groups: 18-30 and 31+. The Standard Program offers general academic courses along with religion classes to help students fulfill both scholastic and spiritual needs. Non-native English speakers may sign up for the alternate "L" program to receive additional support in English. When the one-year Pathway program is completed, leaders help students select from several options for continuing towards a degree.

Skyrocketing tuition is often a roadblock for students. Tuition for the Pathway program is only $68 per credit hour – an average of $340 per semester for Standard Pathway students in the U.S. and Canada. Compare that to the average $4,447 per semester a student would spend at a public four-year college or the nearly $14,000 per semester at a private university and it's easy to understand the appeal of Pathway.

A unique feature of Pathway is the weekly site gathering. Generally held on Thursdays, these face-to-face groups provide additional support beyond the online instruction. Gatherings are facilitated by service missionaries and institute teachers at over 371 sites in 42 states and 40 countries. Arizona alone currently has 13 active sites with two more planned for Goodyear and Paradise Valley.

As Elder Edward Eaton, Lead Service Missionary at the Glendale site, explains, "Pathway uses the lead-student learning model. Students are given the opportunity to prepare and lead lessons, connect with group members on social media, celebrate each other's successes and rally around each other through challenges." The bond that is developed is further supported by a service missionary couple who remains with the group throughout the year.

Elder Joel Clarine of the Thatcher/Gila Valley site in Eastern Arizona has an unusual perspective on the Pathway program. He began as a Pathway student, and then he and his wife were called to be the Lead Service Missionary Couple. Elder Clarine explains, "I feel this really helped us to better understand what other students were experiencing....There is so much more to Pathway than just the opportunity to earn a degree….People have the potential to learn a lot about themselves, how to be better students, and how to be better disciples of Christ."

One student from the Glendale site recovering from a traumatic brain injury was concerned about her ability to continue with her schooling. "Pathway was a great program for me," she says. "It helped me get back into good study habits, it reaffirmed my feelings that I should continue education, and it explained teachings from church leaders."

Andrea Mussi, of the Asunción Paraguay Stake, came to Pathway with a desire to learn more and to be with people who shared her principles. Sister Mussi explains, "I found many spiritual benefits: remembering the covenants we have made, the importance of prayer and keeping the commandments of God, the testimony of my leaders and all my classmates, including my online classes."

The Pathway program has experienced phenomenal growth in just six years. As of September 2015, with the efforts of volunteers, service missionaries and local priesthood leaders it has expanded from a small pilot group of 50 students in the US to over 14,000 students worldwide.

Think Pathway might be just what you need to jump-start your education? Simply go to the user-friendly Website at https://pathway.lds.org and search for a location. Pathway requires no application fee, no standardized test scores, and no ecclesiastical endorsement. Your path is clear.

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Greer Peaks Lodge: A White Mountain Wonder

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

Photo courtesy of Ryan Nelson
The Lodge has a large lobby with a casual, rustic appeal.

There's a handsome vacation spot tucked neatly in the south end of Greer. Once known as the Amberian Peaks Resort, this 40-year-old property is now Greer Peaks Lodge, a family-oriented all-inclusive relaxation destination.

Ryan Nelson and his partner Brian Lemmermann acquired the property with a shared vision. They noticed a shortage of places for families to gather. The location leaped out as the perfect way to connect large families with wide age ranges and space to accommodate family reunions.

"We take groups as small as 15 to as many as 60," Nelson says. Typical arrangements for groups that large take on a more formal aspect, with hotels and reservations for separate restaurants and activities.

Brother Nelson has used his experience with the hospitality industry to bring this vision to life. He studied culinary arts after his mission and, after working for Hilton Hotels and Resorts, found he had an aptitude for large-group meals and entertainment. He and his wife live onsite, so managing the Lodge is a family affair.

"We do just about everything," he says, "though it took quite an adjustment."

Greer Peaks Lodge proudly boasts an onsite dining hall with large-group menus. The Lodge is constantly adding activities and amenities to appeal to every age group. Brother Nelson is particularly proud of the game room, a favorite with teenage guests. The Lodge also has an exercise gym and a wet and dry sauna available for those interested in indoor recreation and relaxation. It's the outdoor adventures, however, that have been the mainstay for the property's appeal.

Guests coming up for the cooler temperatures in summer can spend their time enjoying kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. For lodgers unfamiliar with the area, or for families that would prefer to leave the planning to someone else, local guides are available to ensure that guests don't miss a thing on their travel to-do lists.

While visitors are welcomed at all times of the year, Greer Days (held June 10-11 this year) adds an extra dimension to the experience. This highlight of the summer season brings out local crowds and visitors from around the state to appreciate the town's unique personality. Festivities include an annual parade honoring the history of the area, friendly vendors with arts, crafts, and antiques, and a number of fun activities for families and kids of all ages.

The Nelson family also looks forward to the highlight of the winter season, Greer's Winter Wonderland. While the town of Greer opens its heart and shop doors, Greer Peaks Lodge assures guests a first-class experience with the snowy hayrides around town.

"It's the sledding, though, here at the Lodge, that's a real family favorite for our kids," Brother Nelson says. Snow fun and warm fireplaces make for great winter memories.

The Nelsons put in work year round to create a comfortable, casual place for families and friends to gather and reconnect. They have big plans and a special place to make them happen!

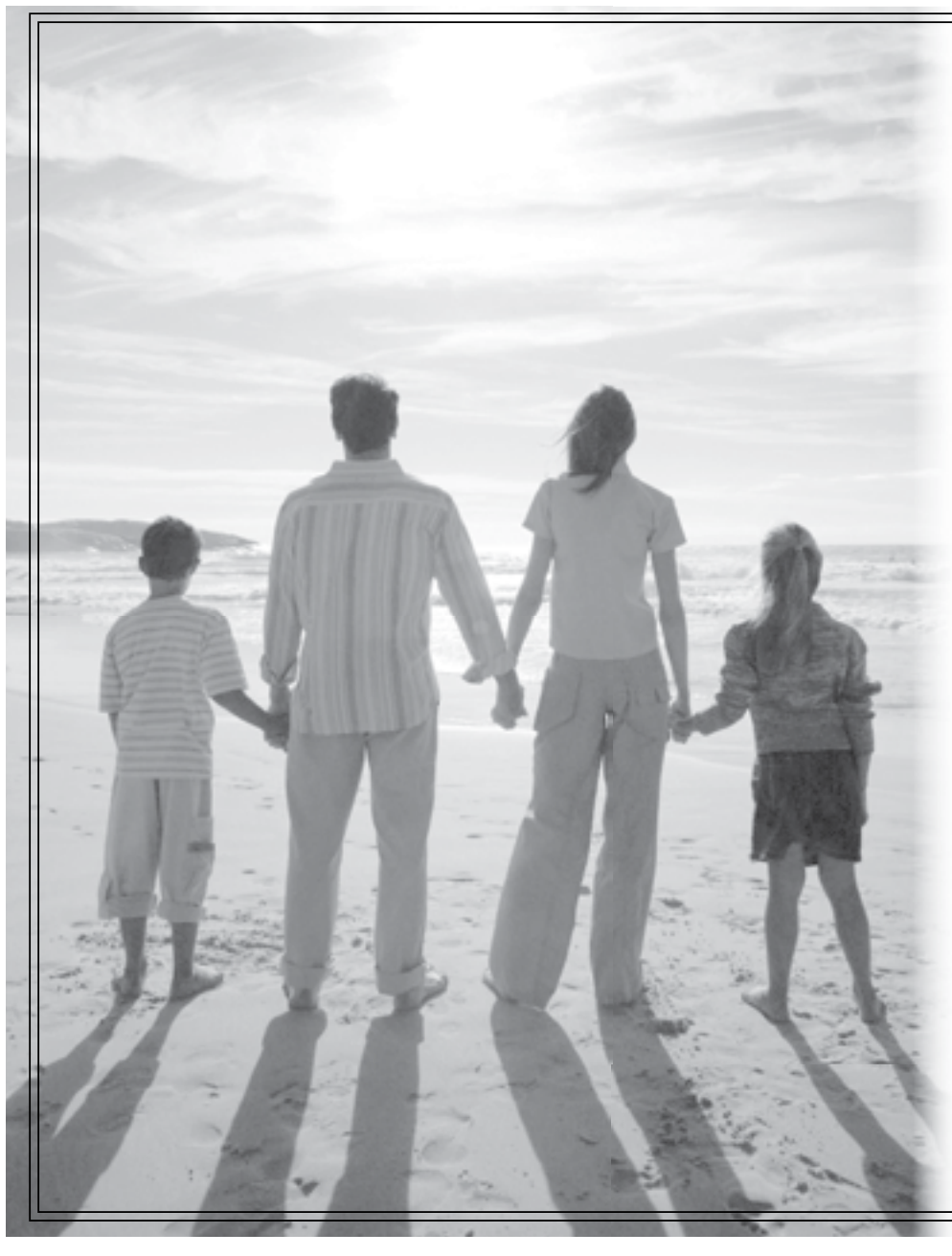
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Photo courtesy of Teri Lyne Photography

Spotlight Entertainment's All Starz channel their inner boy band.

Spotlight Performers

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

"Musical theater is great; you get painted up . . . and you sing. The joy alone of that can really carry a lot," said American actor Chris Pine.

Sister Tiffany Nebeker couldn't agree more. Born into a musical family, she's been performing all her life, training with voice coaches who taught the likes of David Archuleta and performing in venues from Carnival Cruise ships to Arizona Broadway Theatre. Now she runs a theatre of her own—Surprise's Spotlight Entertainment.

At six o'clock on a Monday night, a dozen kids in leotards and black shirts sit against her studio wall, jazz shoes tapping in unison.

"Attention!"

Nebeker herds her students into a semi-circle.

"Yes, Miss Tiffany!"

Toes tap; fingers snap. Nebecker and assistant director Sister Christy Hiniker pass out parts for their upcoming show, an adaptation of Disney's *Teen Beach Movie*.

"Okay, let's make sure we've got the right note. How do you go to your head voices, girls?"

A chorus of high-pitched trills slides down the scale.

"Better!" Nebeker beams.

The excitement is palpable in Spotlight's strip mall studio, where Nebeker's motto, "Finding the best in every performer," is in evidence as her students grin and high five each other.

Continued on pg. 33

Photo by Christy Hiniker

Spotlight Entertainment's *America's Got Talent* performers. The troupe auditioned for the hit television show in December.

Spotlight Performers
Continued from pg. 32

"I like to focus on both the personal growth and progress of each student," Nebeker says. "We are only as strong as our weakest team member. Our students learn to build one another up and support their fellow cast mates."

A Surprise fixture since 2009, Spotlight Entertainment is a so-called "triple threat" studio. Spotlight's six-member staff teaches not only voice or dance, but a combination of acting, singing and dancing—think Fred Astaire or Judy Garland. Classes are leveled by age and ability, some being open enrollment while others areaudition-only.

"The more students can receive proper training in all three areas, the better they do in a show or an audition," Nebeker says. "My program also helps improve public speaking skills, encourages team work and demonstrates the importance of commitment."

Hiniker agrees. "It's been so great to teach at a studio that makes it possible for kids and teens to pursue vocal training, acting and dance technique- all in one studio! As a parent, it's exciting that my girls don't have to choose one or the other. With our instruction, every day they are gaining skills to become well rounded and marketable triple threat performers."

While not an exclusively LDS outfit, Nebeker and a handful of her teachers and performers are Church members, an association which colors all facets of her teaching.

"The teachings in the church encourage us to develop our talents and emphasize the importance of sharing them with others," she says.

A recent career high came in the form of an invitation by a local talent scout to form an audition group for the hit television show *America's Got Talent*. While the young performers are still waiting to hear their audition results, the kids definitely received the VIP treatment during the process.

Ultimately, Nebeker would like to see Spotlight expand beyond the tiny walls of its current studio. They have recently begun to offer an adult dance program in addition to their full range of youth classes, and Nebeker is hoping for a Surprise community theatre someday, one that would "[give] kids, teens and adults more opportunities to learn and perform."

But for now, dreams of expansion will have to wait—Nebeker's got a rehearsal to run.

"Let's go over the finale."

The room is electric. Pink foam surfboards hit the floor, and Hiniker distributes a rainbow of beach towels.

"I want to see giant grins!" she reminds them as they shimmy across the room.

Filling gaps in Surprise's cultural offerings, giving local kids polish and poise, and nurturing young talent—it's just another day at the office for Spotlight Entertainment.

U.S. Congressman Matt Salmon's Service Touches Individual Lives

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

U.S. Congressman Matt Salmon's hero is his dad—a sergeant in WWII, and a post-hole digger who wouldn't miss work even with his foot broken. His dad taught him hard work, loyalty, honesty and integrity. He told Salmon, "Finish what you start. If you make a promise, keep it."

Brother Salmon has worked to do that his whole life. He received a leadership scholarship to BYU and studied there as a freshman. Two weeks after returning from his mission in Taiwan to his home in Arizona, he met Nancy, his wife. They married six months later. Staying in Arizona, Salmon earned an English literature degree at ASU.

His first job after graduating was with a telephone company in Tucson. Promoted to supervisor at age 22, he was told that if he didn't have the best results of all six splicing crews, he'd be fired. His crew of older, more experienced men decided to sabotage him. But finding Salmon to be likable and humble, they labored earnestly and won the competition.

"Always act in humility," Salmon says. "Being in a prominent position is a gift from God; it's not because you're so great."

He later earned a Masters in Public Administration from BYU and went on to politics from there.

Matt and Nancy Salmon have been married 36 years and have four children and seven grandchildren. With him in Washington, D.C. about 80% of the time, he and Nancy have scripture study and prayer together by phone every day.

Frequently using the Mandarin learned on his mission, Salmon is the first Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Asia Pacific Subcommittee in U.S. history that actually speaks Mandarin. He also serves on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

"The most important work we do touches individual lives," Salmon says. He values the words of King Benjamin in Mosiah 2:17, "[W]hen ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

One act of service involved Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, whom Salmon met twice in the Mexican prison where the Marine was wrongfully held in 2014. Salmon met with the Attorney General of Mexico, the Ambassador to Mexico and news media. It took seven months, but Tahmooressi was finally released.

Photo courtesy of Matt Salmon

Congressman Matt Salmon (R) has represented the 5th District of Arizona since 2013.

"I love being able to serve in that way," Salmon says.

Recently, he helped achieve Sergeant Amir Hekmati's release after his wrongful imprisonment in Iran.

Salmon ardently fights to represent his constituents in Congressional District 5 and other Americans. He's a starter and finisher, and keeps his promises.

Time to Blossom Conference
Continued from pg. 27

come from your friends because they are going through it too."

Another blogger, Alexis Arias, has been a speaker at every conference since the program began.

Alexis, who was Arizona's Junior Miss 2009 and now lives in the Las Sendas Ward, Salt River Stake, with her husband and baby, says, "My class this year is focused on etiquette. I hope I can help the girls understand that etiquette isn't outdated! Learning basic manners—not just at the table, but also on social media—is a skill that will help them forever," Alexis says.

Other speakers at this year's conference will include Eric Richards, EFY and Education Week speaker, Madeline Paige, Time Out for Girls speaker, contestant on "The Voice;' Dennis Deaton, author and motivational speaker and Jef Rawls, comedian, actor and owner of Jester'Z Improv.

Time to Blossom attendees will participate in a concert, a comedy show and service projects, among many other fun and instructive activities.

This year's Time to Blossom young women's conference will be June 13-17, with classes at EVIT in Mesa. Girls choosing the overnight option will stay at Hyatt Place Hotel.

Tuition will increase May 2 and registration closes May 30. For prices and more information, visit www.YWConference.com.

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